



Meeting of the
City of Sacramento
Community Racial Profiling Commission



SUMMARY

Thursday, October 16, 2008

Public Safety Center - 5770 Freeport Boulevard - Hall of Honor

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Brian Louie
Alani Cridge
John Floyd
Sean Coletta
Renee Carter

Francine Tournour
Walter Kawamoto
Daniela Lopez-Garcia
Vacant
Crystal Taylor, Chair

Brent Meyer
Vacant
Julie Vera
Danette Brown
Ernest Carter

CITY STAFF:

*Brian Louie, Deputy Chief
Katherine Lester, Lieutenant
Helga Sprung, Administrative Analyst*

The Community Racial Profiling Commission is a board of the City Council whose purpose is to provide recommendations to the Council concerning racially biased policing.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

You are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this meeting. Public comment is taken (3 minutes maximum) on items listed on the agenda when they are called. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting as noted on the agenda. Comments on controversial items may be limited and large groups are encouraged to select 3-5 speakers to represent the opinion of the group.

Notice to Lobbyists: When addressing the Commission you must identify yourself as a lobbyist and announce the client/business/organization you are representing (City Code 2.15.160).

Speaker slips are located on the table and should be completed and submitted to the Commission Clerk.

Government Code 54950 (The Brown Act) requires that a brief description of each item to be transacted or discussed be posted at least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting. The City posts Agendas at City Hall as well as offsite meeting locations.

The order of Agenda items are listed for reference and may be taken in any order deemed appropriate by the Commission. The Agenda provides a general description and staff recommendations; however, the Commission may take action other than what is recommended. The Agenda is available for public review at least three calendar days prior to the meeting. Hard copies are available from the Police Department (10 cents per page),

Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance to participate in the meeting, notify the Police Department at (916) 808-0838 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

SUMMARY

October 16, 2008

*Public Safety Center
5770 Freeport Blvd., Hall of Honor*

All items listed are heard and acted upon by the Community Racial Profiling Commission unless otherwise noted.

Called to Order – 6:17 p.m.

Roll Call - A meeting of the Community Racial Profiling Commission (CRPC) was called to order by Acting Chair Renee Carter at 6:17 p.m. Thursday, October 16, 2008 at the Public Safety Center Hall of Honor. Brian Louie and Crystal Taylor absent.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Renee Carter.

Captain Jim Maccoun introduced the incoming Sacramento Police Department staff liaison to the Commission, Lieutenant Katherine Lester, and visitor SPD Deputy Chief Sam Somers.

Discussion / Action Reports

Discussion and action reports include oral presentations including those recommending receive and file.

1. Update on Commission Membership

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Contact: Lt. Katherine Lester, (916) 808-0800, Police Department.

Action: Lt. Lester reported that the application period for all board/commission seats expiring in 2008 had closed. CRPC seats expiring in 2008 include one At-Large seat and one each representing Districts 2, 4 and 6. Applications for vacant Category D seats in Districts 3 and 5 are being accepted until 5:00 p.m. on October 24, 2008. Lt. Lester requested that Commission members network to encourage qualified candidates to apply for all vacant seats.

2. Approval of Minutes for August 7, 13, and 14, 2008

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Approve minutes.

Contact: Helga Sprung, Administrative Analyst, (916) 808-0838, Police Department.

Action: Moved, seconded, carried (Meyer/Coletta; Absent – Louie, Taylor) to approve the minutes for August 7, 13, and 14, 2008.

3. Discussion of Status of Videotaping Stakeholder Meetings and Posting Videos on City of Sacramento and/or CRPC Websites

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Review and comment.

Contact: Lt. Katherine Lester, (916) 808-0800, Police Department.

Action: Commission member requested that staff report at the next CRPC meeting on the technical issues and costs associated with posting videos of the three Stakeholder meetings held August 13, 14 & 15, 2008 on either or both the City of Sacramento and the Community Racial Profiling Commission websites. Members suggested that if posting the videos were found to be prohibitively expensive, websites could advise citizens to request that the City send them copies of the video downloads.

4. Discussion of Commission Recommendations to Sacramento Police Department Related to Traffic Stop Study Report

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Review and comment.

Contact: Crystal Taylor, Commission Chair.

Action: Commission members recommended that:

- ❖ The City of Sacramento hire another consultant and conduct two additional traffic stop studies within the next five years, using the benchmark data collected for the Lamberth study;
- ❖ Rather than conduct further studies, the City of Sacramento address the community's perceptions that the Police Department has a systemic problem of making racially biased traffic stops;
- ❖ The Police Department officers routinely tell drivers why they are being stopped;
- ❖ The Police Department cease asking stopped drivers if they are on probation or parole;
- ❖ The Police Department report in detail on the results of investigations resulting from citizen complaints; and
- ❖ The Police Department review their traffic stop protocol.

5. Discussion of Future Goals and Responsibilities of the CRPC

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Review and comment.

Contact: Crystal Taylor, Commission Chair.

Action: Commission members:

- ❖ Discussed whether the purpose of the Commission had been fulfilled with the release of the Lamberth Traffic Stop Study;

- ❖ Suggested that the scope of the Commission’s powers and duties were presently wider than simply working with and reporting on the Lamberth Traffic Stop Study and also included advising the City Council on racially biased policing;
- ❖ Considered the processes by which members could formulate and implement new responsibilities and powers for the Commission, including 1) discussing the subject individually with City Council members, 2) presenting their ideas in a report to the City Council, and 3) requesting that the Law & Legislation Committee and the City Council change or amend Ordinance No. 2004-17 to authorize new responsibilities and powers;
- ❖ Stated that members must be clear on what they would like to do as a Commission before proceeding with processes to expand their scope;
- ❖ Recalled a previous discussion in July 2008 with their representative from the Office of the City Attorney, Jerry Hicks, on their future goals and responsibilities and questioned whether a definitive opinion on the scope of Commission powers had been issued;
- ❖ Suggested that the Commission could supplement the work of the Office of Public Safety Accountability in addressing citizen complaints of racially biased policing;
- ❖ Considered the possibility that the Commission could help the community understand issues of policing, such as the elements of traffic stops; and
- ❖ Learned that the Law & Legislative Committee and the City Council will address the Commission’s request to change the requirement in Ordinance No. 2004-17 that they meet “at least once every month” to “at least once every quarter.”

6. Police Department Activities Influencing Study Data and Report of Compliance Statistics

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Review and comment.

Contact: Deputy Chief Brian Louie, (916) 808-0800, Police Department.

Action: Staff reported that:

- ❖ The traffic stop form compliance rate was in the mid to high 90 percent range;
- ❖ The number of citations issued remained steady;
- ❖ Arrests had been made in the robbery series targeting Asian females; and
- ❖ The Department was tracking a residential burglary series occurring in Natomas

Public Comments- Matters Not on the Agenda

7. None.

Questions, Ideas, and Announcements of Commission Members

8. Commission members:

- ❖ Thanked Renee Carter for acting as Chair for the meeting
- ❖ Announced that an email would be forthcoming giving the details about an upcoming Sacramento Sheriff’s Department workshop.

Adjournment – 7:56 p.m.

Submitted,

Katherine Lester, Commission Clerk

Approved,

Crystal Taylor, Chair